

This listing of claims will replace the originally filed claims in this application.

Listing of Claims

Claims 1-5 (canceled)

Claim 6 (new): A method of protecting pieces of equipment comprising the following:

- a) equipment pieces;
- b) joining pieces; and
- c) fluid,

wherein said equipment and joint pieces have been protectively coated, whereby said protected equipment pieces are connected to each other by said protected joining pieces and wherein each resulting connection is formed by an external welding of the ends of the protected joining pieces with said protected equipment pieces.

Claim 7 (new): A method according to Claim 6, wherein said protected equipment is intended to operate at a high temperature.

Claim 8 (new): A method according to Claim 7, wherein said high temperature is at least about 450° C.

Claim 9 (new): The method according to Claim 6, wherein said fluid contains at least one hydrocarbon and/or carbon monoxide.

Claim 10 (new): The method according to Claim 6, wherein said protected equipment comprises a metal.

Claim 11 (new): The method according to Claim 6, wherein said protected equipment comprises an alloy.

Claim 12 (new): The method according to Claim 11, wherein said alloy consists of at least one of the following: nickel, iron, chromium and aluminum.

Claim 13 (new): The method according to Claim 6, wherein said joining pieces comprise a protective coating over at least part of their surface.

Claim 14 (new): The method according to Claim 6, wherein said joining pieces comprise a protective coating over part of their surface intended to be brought into contact with said fluid at a high temperature.

Claim 15 (new): A method according to Claim 6, wherein said joining pieces are protected beforehand by aluminization.

Claim 16 (new): A method according to Claim 6, wherein said method may be utilized to protect equipment in a plant for generating synthesis gas.

Claim 17 (new): A method according Claim 16, wherein said fluid comprises a hydrocarbon mixture.

Claim 18 (new): A method according to Claim 6, wherein said method may be utilized to improve the inhibition of metal dusting corrosion over all of the protected equipment during its operation.

Claim 19 (new): A method of protecting pieces of equipment comprising the following:

- a) equipment pieces;
- b) joining pieces;
- c) fluid,

wherein said equipment and joint pieces have been protectively coated, whereby said protected equipment pieces are connected to each other by said protected joining pieces and wherein each resulting connection is formed by an external welding of the ends of the protected joining pieces with said protected equipment pieces, wherein said protected equipment is intended to operate at a high temperature, and wherein said high temperature is at least about 450°C.

Claim 20 (new): A method of protecting pieces of equipment comprising the following:

- a) equipment pieces;
- b) joining pieces;
- c) fluid,

wherein said equipment and joint pieces have been protectively coated, whereby said protected equipment pieces are connected to each other by

said protected joining pieces and wherein each resulting connection is formed by an external welding of the ends of the protected joining pieces with said protected equipment pieces, wherein said protected equipment is intended to operate at a high temperature, wherein said high temperature is at least about 450° C, wherein said fluid contains at least one hydrocarbon and/or carbon monoxide, wherein said protected equipment comprises a metal or an alloy and wherein said alloy consists of at least one of the following: nickel, iron, chromium and aluminum.

Claim 21 (new): A method of protecting equipment intended to operate at high temperature in the presence of a fluid containing at least one hydrocarbon and/or carbon monoxide against corrosion by metal dusting in which pieces of the equipment are made from an alloy containing nickel, iron, chromium and/or aluminum, and in which said pieces of the equipment are protected from said corrosion by a protective coating, wherein:

- a. said equipment pieces protected in this way are connected to each other by means of joining pieces, said joining pieces being protected beforehand by a protective coating over at least part of their surface intended to be brought into contact with said fluid at high temperature,
- b. each of the connections intended to be subjected to said corrosion is produced by external welding of the ends of the joining piece with said pieces of equipment.